

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 24 and 30.

Please amend claims 17 and 25 as shown below.

The claims of this application are as follows:

1.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A method of reducing NO_x emission during fluid catalytic cracking of a hydrocarbon feedstock into lower molecular weight components said method comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feedstock with a cracking catalyst suitable for catalyzing the cracking of hydrocarbons at elevated temperature whereby lower molecular weight hydrocarbon components are formed in the presence of a NO_x reduction composition, wherein said NO_x reduction composition comprises a (i) mixed oxide of cerium and zirconium, (ii) optionally, at least one oxide from the lanthanide series other than cerium and (iii) ~~optionally~~, an oxide of a transition metal selected from Groups Ib and IIb of the Periodic Table, said mixed oxide (i) is present in amounts of at least 70% by weight relative to the total of (i), (ii), and (iii) said NO_x reduction component being present in a sufficient NO_x reducing amount.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said cracking catalyst and NO_x reduction composition are separate particles.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said cracking catalyst and NOx reduction composition are present as an integral combination of the cracking catalyst component and the NOx reduction composition component in a single particle.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said cracking catalyst is fluidized during contact with a hydrocarbon feedstock.
21. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising recovering used cracking catalyst from said contacting step and treating said used catalyst under conditions to regenerate said catalyst.
22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said hydrocarbon feedstock contains at least 0.1 wt % nitrogen.
23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said mixed oxide (i) contains at least 20 % cerium oxide by weight and at least 15% zirconium oxide by weight.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 17 wherein said at least one oxide of a transition metal (iii) is copper oxide or silver oxide.
26. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said NOx reduction component includes positive amounts of component (ii).

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein (ii) comprises oxides of La, Nd, Pr, or mixtures thereof.

28. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein components (i), (ii), and (iii) comprise at least 40 weight % of said NO_x removal composition.

29. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein components (i), (ii), and (iii) comprise at least 55 weight % of said NO_x removal composition.

30. (Cancelled)